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EXAMINER

SELBY, GEVELL V

ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER
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2622

DATE MAILED: 11/16/2006

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

Office Action Summary

Application No.

10/618,116

Applicant(s)

STAVELY ET AL.

Examiner

Gevell Selby

Art Unit

2622

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) OR THIRTY (30) DAYS, WHICHEVER IS LONGER, FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☐ Responsive to communication(s) filed on ____.
- 2a) ☐ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☒ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1-44 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) ____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) ____ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 1-44 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) ____ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) ____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☒ The drawing(s) filed on 10 July 2003 is/are: a) ☒ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
- Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
- Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. ____.
 3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

- | | |
|--|--|
| 1) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Notice of References Cited (PTO-892) | 4) <input type="checkbox"/> Interview Summary (PTO-413)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date. ____ |
| 2) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) | 5) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Informal Patent Application |
| 3) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO/SB/08)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date ____ | 6) <input type="checkbox"/> Other: ____ |

DETAILED ACTION

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 101

1. 35 U.S.C. 101 reads as follows:

Whoever invents or discovers any new and useful process, machine, manufacture, or composition of matter, or any new and useful improvement thereof, may obtain a patent therefor, subject to the conditions and requirements of this title.

Claims 41-44 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 101 because Claims regarding program code are descriptive material per se and are not statutory because they are not capable of causing functional change in the computer. The following is a suggested preamble:

“a computer readable medium having encoded thereon a computer program comprising a set of instructions when executed by a computer to implement a method guiding a user in the capture of digital images, the method comprising the steps of:”.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 102

1. The following is a quotation of the appropriate paragraphs of 35 U.S.C. 102 that form the basis for the rejections under this section made in this Office action:

A person shall be entitled to a patent unless –

(e) the invention was described in (1) an application for patent, published under section 122(b), by another filed in the United States before the invention by the applicant for patent or (2) a patent granted on an application for patent by another filed in the United States before the invention by the applicant for patent, except that an international application filed under the treaty defined in section 351(a) shall have the effects for purposes of this subsection of an application filed in the United States only if the international application designated the United States and was published under Article 21(2) of such treaty in the English language.

2. **Claims 1-7,9, 10, 15-17, 19, 22-28, 30, and 32-44 rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(e) as being anticipated by Hyodo et al., US 2003/0206240.**

In regard to claim 1, Hyodo et al., US 2003/0206240, discloses a method for guiding a user in the capture of digital images in a digital camera, comprising:

providing, in the digital camera, a collection of image templates (assist frames 1,2,3,4,5, and 6) (see para. 94);
activating, in response to the selection of an image template, a corresponding image capture context in the digital camera (see para. 100-102);
capturing, in response to an input, a digital image while the digital camera is in the corresponding image capture context (see para. 51).

In regard to claim 2, Hyodo et al., US 2003/0206240, discloses the method of claim 1, wherein each image template has an associated sample image (see figures 15A-15F).

In regard to claim 3, Hyodo et al., US 2003/0206240, discloses the method of claim 2, wherein the digital image captured in the corresponding image capture context replaces the sample image associated with the selected image template (see para. 51: when the image being photographed is displayed with an overlapping assist frame with a sample image, only the captured image is saved and replaces the previous image in the reproducing mode).

In regard to claim 4, Hyodo et al., US 2003/0206240, discloses the method of claim 1, further comprising:

presenting the collection of image templates as browseable graphics on a display of the digital camera (see figures 15A-15F and para 102-103).

In regard to claim 5, Hyodo et al., US 2003/0206240, discloses the method of claim 1, farther comprising:

presenting the collection of image templates in a graphical list on a display of the digital camera (see para. 103).

In regard to claim 6, Hyodo et al., US 2003/0206240, discloses the method of claim 1, further comprising: indicating for which image templates a digital image has already been captured in the corresponding image capture context (see para. 51, in reproducing mode the captured images are displayed to the user indicating for which image templates an image has already been taken).

In regard to claim 7, Hyodo et al., US 2003/0206240, discloses the method of claim 1, further comprising:

indicating on a display of the digital camera which image template is selected while the digital camera is in the corresponding image capture context (see figures 16 and 17 and para. 105).

In regard to claim 9, Hyodo et al., US 2003/0206240, discloses the method of claim 7, wherein each image template has an associated sample image and indicating on a display of the digital camera which image template is selected while the digital camera is in the corresponding image capture context comprises displaying a thumbnail image of the associated sample image in a live preview mode of the digital camera (see figures 16 and 17 and para. 105: a thumbnail image corresponding to the shooting mode is displayed at the bottom of the template).

In regard to claim 10, Hyodo et al., US 2003/0206240, discloses the method of claim 7, wherein each image template has an associated sample image and indicating on a display of the digital camera which image template is selected while the digital camera is

in the corresponding image capture context comprises faintly superimposing the associated sample image over a live preview mode of the digital camera (see figures 16 and 17 and para. 105: a thumbnail image corresponding to the shooting mode is displayed at the bottom of the template superimposed over the image).

In regard to claim 15, Hyodo et al., US 2003/0206240, discloses the method of claim 1, further comprising:

composing automatically a photo album comprising, for each of at least one image template, one of a sample image associated with that image template and a digital image captured in the image capture context corresponding to that image template (see para. 102-105: the CPU displays each sample image associated with each template when the user presses the left or right key on the cross key 9 to scroll through the image to select the best assist frame or template).

In regard to claim 16, Hyodo et al., US 2003/0206240, discloses the method of claim 15, wherein the photo album is composed in the digital camera (see figure 16-19).

In regard to claim 17, Hyodo et al., US 2003/0206240, discloses the method of claim 15, wherein is inherent that when the memory card with the stored images of the Hyodo reference is removed from the storage part 56 and inserted into an external device, such as a computer, that the photo album of stored images is composed on a device external to the digital camera, in order to view and edit the images.

In regard to claim 19, Hyodo et al., US 2003/0206240, discloses the method of claim 1, wherein the collection of image templates has a theme (see para 94 and 95: assist frames or templates arranges in theme of shooting modes).

In regard to claim 22, Hyodo et al., US 2003/0206240, discloses a method for guiding a user in the capture of digital images in a digital camera, comprising providing, in the digital camera, a collection of image templates, each image template (assist frame) having a corresponding image capture context in the digital camera (see figures 15A-F and para. 93-95).

In regard to claim 23, Hyodo et al., US 2003/0206240, discloses the method of claim 22, wherein each image template has an associated sample image (see figures 16-19), each sample image being optionally replaceable, in arbitrary order, by a digital image captured in the corresponding image capture context (see para 51: after the image assist frame and image is displayed and the image is captured, the template is placed with only the image in reproduction mode).

In regard to claims 24 and 39, Hyodo et al., US 2003/0206240, discloses a digital camera, comprising:

an imaging module (see figure 3) to convert optical images to digital images (see para 45-51); and

a memory (see figure 5, element 55) to store a collection of image templates, each image template having a corresponding image capture context in which a digital image may be captured by the imaging module (see para 93-95).

In regard to claims 25 and 40, Hyodo et al., US 2003/0206240, discloses the digital camera of claims 24 and 39, respectively, wherein each image template has an associated sample image (see figures 16-19), each sample image being optionally replaceable, in arbitrary order, by a digital image captured in the corresponding image

capture context (see para 51: after the image assist frame and image is displayed and the image is captured, the template is placed with only the image in reproduction mode).

In regard to claim 26, Hyodo et al., US 2003/0206240, discloses a digital camera, comprising:

a memory (see figure 5, element 55) to store a collection of image templates (see para. 93);

image template control logic (see figure 3, element 38) configured to activate, in response to the selection of an image template, a corresponding image capture context in the digital camera (see para. 102); and

an imaging module (see figure 3) to capture, in response to an input, a digital image while the digital camera is in the corresponding image capture context (see para 45-51).

In regard to claim 27, Hyodo et al., US 2003/0206240, discloses the digital camera of claim 26, wherein each image template has an associated sample image (see figure 16-19).

In regard to claim 28, Hyodo et al., US 2003/0206240, discloses the digital camera of claim 27, wherein the image template control logic is configured to replace the associated sample image with the digital image captured in the corresponding image capture context (see para 51: after the image assist frame and image is displayed and the image is captured, the template is placed with only the image in reproduction mode).

In regard to claim 30, Hyodo et al., US 2003/0206240, discloses the digital camera of claim 26, wherein the image template control logic is configured to indicate on

the display which image template is selected while the digital camera is in the corresponding image capture context (see figure 16-19).

In regard to claim 32, Hyodo et al., US 2003/0206240, discloses the digital camera of claim 30, wherein each image template has an associated sample image (see figure 16-19) and the image template control logic is configured to display a thumbnail image of the associated sample image in a live preview mode of the digital camera (shooting mode image displayed at the bottom of the display with each template).

In regard to claim 33, Hyodo et al., US 2003/0206240, discloses the digital camera of claim 30, wherein each image template has an associated sample image and the image template control logic is configured to superimpose faintly the associated sample image over a live preview mode of the digital camera (see figures 16-19 and para 99).

In regard to claim 34, Hyodo et al., US 2003/0206240, discloses the digital camera of claim 26, wherein the image template control logic is further configured to provide instructions for capturing the digital image while the digital camera is in the corresponding image capture context (see para 98 and 99: the CPU 38 provides instructions in the form of the assist frames or templates on the display to instruct the use how to frame the image).

In regard to claim 35, Hyodo et al., US 2003/0206240, discloses the digital camera of claim 26, wherein the image template control logic is further configured to compose automatically a photo album comprising, for each of at least one image template, one of a sample image associated with that image template and a digital image captured in the image capture context corresponding to that image template (see para.

102-105: the CPU displays each sample image associated with each template when the user presses the left or right key on the cross key 9 to scroll through the image to select the best assist frame or template).

In regard to claim 36, Hyodo et al., US 2003/0206240, discloses the digital camera of claim 26, wherein the image template control logic (CPU 38) comprises program code configured to read the collection of image templates (see para. 98).

In regard to claim 37, Hyodo et al., US 2003/0206240, discloses the digital camera of claim 26, wherein it is inherent the collection of image templates and the image template control logic of the Hyodo reference comprise an integrated collection of program code, in order for the CPU 38 to read the assist frame data from the ROM 55 and display the assist frame or template with image (see para. 98-100).

In regard to claim 38, Hyodo et al., US 2003/0206240, discloses the digital camera of claim 26, wherein the image template control logic operates in conjunction with a menu system of the digital camera (see para. 102-105: the CPU displays each sample image associated with each template when the user presses the left or right key on the cross key 9 to scroll through the menu of images to select the best assist frame or template).

In regard to claim 41, Hyodo et al., US 2003/0206240, discloses a computer-readable storage medium containing program code for execution in a digital camera, comprising a first code segment that comprises a collection of image templates (assist frames), each image template having a corresponding image capture context in the digital camera (see figures 15A-F and para. 93-95).

In regard to claim 42, Hyodo et al., US 2003/0206240, discloses the computer-readable storage medium of claim 41, wherein each image template has an associated sample image (see figures 16-19), each sample image being optionally replaceable, in arbitrary order, by a digital image captured in the corresponding image capture context (see para 51: after the image assist frame and image is displayed and the image is captured, the template is placed with only the image in reproduction mode).

In regard to claim 43, Hyodo et al., US 2003/0206240, discloses the computer-readable storage medium of claim 41, further comprising: a second code segment that activates, in response to the selection of an image template, the corresponding image capture context in the digital camera (see para 98-99).

In regard to claim 44, Hyodo et al., US 2003/0206240, discloses the computer-readable storage medium of claim 41, wherein at least one image template in the collection includes instructions for capturing the digital image while the digital camera is in the corresponding image capture context (see para 98 and 99: the CPU 38 provides instructions in the form of the assist frames or templates on the display to instruct the use how to frame the image).

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

3. The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

4. Claims 8, 18, 20, 21, 29, 31 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Hyodo et al., US 2003/0206240, in view of Sarbadhikari et al., US 5,477,264.

In regard to claims 8 and 31, Hyodo et al., US 2003/0206240, discloses the method of claims 7 and 30, respectively. The Hyodo reference does not disclose wherein indicating on a display of the digital camera which image template is selected while the digital camera is in the corresponding image capture context comprises displaying a textual title of the selected image template in a live preview mode of the digital camera.

Sarbadhikari et al., US 5,477,264, discloses a digital camera that displays a textual title of the selected image template in a live preview mode of the digital camera (see figure 8: "All Star Slugger", figure 9: "Ho Ho Ho", and column 10, lines 24-53).

It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time of invention to have been motivated to modify Hyodo et al., US 2003/0206240, in view of Sarbadhikari et al., US 5,477,264, wherein indicating on a display of the digital camera which image template is selected while the digital camera is in the corresponding image capture context comprises displaying a textual title of the selected image template in a live preview mode of the digital camera, in order for the user to quickly identify that the correct template was selected, thus making the system more reliable.

In regard to claims 18 and 29, Hyodo et al., US 2003/0206240, discloses the method of claims 1 and 26, respectively. The Hyodo reference does not disclose wherein providing, in the digital camera, a collection of image templates comprises downloading,

through a communication interface, the collection of image templates to the digital camera from an external device.

Sarbadhikari et al., US 5,477,264, discloses a digital camera wherein image templates or overlays are stored in an enhancement file in the removable data storage device of the camera and are downloaded to the camera through a card communication interface to display to the user to select a template and then use the template to assist in framing the image (see figures 8 and 9 and column 10, lines 24-53).

It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time of invention to have been motivated to modify Hyodo et al., US 2003/0206240, in view of Sarbadhikari et al., US 5,477,264, wherein providing, in the digital camera, a collection of image templates comprises downloading the collection of image templates to the digital camera from an external device, in order to expand the capabilities of the camera to provide the user with more options, while allowing the camera to be updated with new templates.

In regard to claims 20 and 21, Hyodo et al., US 2003/0206240, discloses the method of claim 19. The Hyodo reference does not disclose wherein the theme is a place or a special event.

Sarbadhikari et al., US 5,477,264, discloses a digital camera that uses templates wherein the templates can have various themes such as a place or special event (see column 10, lines 50-53).

It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time of invention to have been motivated to modify Hyodo et al., US 2003/0206240, in view of

Sarbadhikari et al., US 5,477,264, wherein the theme is a place or a special event, in order to enhance the images captured for a particular situation.

5. Claims 11-13 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Hyodo et al., US 2003/0206240, in view of Aihara et al US 6,223,190.

In regard to claim 11, Hyodo et al., US 2003/0206240, discloses the method of claim 1. The Hyodo reference does not disclose further comprising: providing, on a display of the digital camera, textual instructions for capturing the digital image while the digital camera is in the corresponding image capture context.

Aihara et al US 6,223,190, discloses digital camera that executes a script to display interactive instruction on the display that prompt a user to perform specific operations to guide a user through capturing a series of images (see abstract and column 8, line 57 to column 9, line 26).

It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time of invention to have been motivated to modify Hyodo et al., US 2003/0206240, in view of Aihara et al US 6,223,190, to further comprise: providing, on a display of the digital camera, textual instructions for capturing the digital image while the digital camera is in the corresponding image capture context, in order to make image capture easier for inexperienced users.

In regard to claim 12, Hyodo et al., US 2003/0206240, in view of Aihara et al US 6,223,190, discloses the method of claim 11. The Aihara reference discloses wherein the textual instructions are superimposed over a live preview mode of the digital camera (see figure 6a, element 430).

In regard to claim 13, Hyodo et al., US 2003/0206240, in view of Aihara et al US 6,223,190, discloses the method of claim 11. The Aihara reference discloses wherein the textual instructions are displayed separately from a live preview mode of the digital camera (see figure 6B, element 402).

- 6. Claim 14 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Hyodo et al., US 2003/0206240, in view of Yang, US 2003/0234863.**

In regard to claim 14, Hyodo et al., US 2003/0206240, discloses the method of claim 1. The Hyodo reference does not disclose further comprising: providing audible instructions in the digital camera for capturing the digital image while the digital camera is in the corresponding image capture context.

Yang, US 2003/0234863, discloses a digital camera with a voice unit, for example a speaker to broadcast an audio signal, such as a voice message (see para 17).

It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time of invention to have been motivated to modify Hyodo et al., US 2003/0206240, in view of Yang, US 2003/0234863, to further comprise providing audible instructions in the digital camera for capturing the digital image while the digital camera is in the corresponding image capture context, in order to make it easier for the user to understand the instruction by seeing and hearing it.

Conclusion

7. The prior art made of record and not relied upon is considered pertinent to applicant's disclosure. US 20020171746, discloses a digital camera that displays a template to assist in image capture.

US 2002/0080251 discloses a digital camera that displays a template to frame an image.

US 2004/0268251, discloses an image capture system that instructs the user with a set of rule to capture an image.

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Gevell Selby whose telephone number is 571-272-7369. The examiner can normally be reached on 8:00 A.M. - 5:30 PM (every other Friday off).

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Vivek Srivastava can be reached on 571-272-7304. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free). If you would like assistance from a USPTO Customer Service Representative or access to the automated information system, call 800-786-9199 (IN USA OR CANADA) or 571-272-1000.

gvs



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